Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL Fact Sheet
Prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Purpose:
The purpose of the Columbia and Snake River Mainstem Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) is to understand the sources of total dissolved gas and temperature loadings and to allocate those loadings to meet state and tribal water quality standards. This is a task that will require careful coordination, cooperation, and management by all parties involved in this effort.

The complexity of the governance system is profound, involving Federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, private entities, and Public Utility Districts (PUDs). No single agency or Tribe can assert its jurisdiction and achieve a successful outcome. For example, total dissolved gas travels across international borders, through tribal and state jurisdictions, and is increased by passage over Federal, PUD, and private dams. Its one commonality is that it is harmful to fish and aquatic life at certain percentages of saturation. Temperature exceedances are perhaps even more complex in assessing causes and solutions.

Scope:
The geographic scope of this effort includes the Mainstem Snake River from river mile (RM) 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River. For the Mainstem Columbia River, the TMDL will reach from the Canadian Border to the Astoria Bridge at the River mouth.

Vision and Final Products:
- An equitable allocation of pollutant reductions that accurately reflects relative contribution, and favors no one state, Tribe, or dam operator.
- A TMDL that informs decision-makers as to the real causes of the water quality standards violations and the resultant loadings required to attain water quality standards and that has public participation.
- A TMDL that recognizes and complements work in habitat and hydropower.
- A TMDL that is approvable, withstands appeal, and meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act and state TMDL legal settlements and decisions.
- A TMDL that has the support of the participants.
- A TMDL that promotes real improvements in water quality and meets water quality standards.
- A cooperative venture which recognizes the expertise, jurisdiction, authorities, and efforts of all participants.

TMDL Partners:
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- Washington DOE
- Oregon DEQ
- Idaho DEQ
- Columbia Basin Tribes

Conceptual Approach:
EPA will:
- Develop the technical basis for the TMDL for temperature for the Snake/Columbia Mainstem using the RBM 10 Model developed by EPA Region 10.

EPA will coordinate tribal involvement. EPA will provide the leadership with the states and Tribes to collaborate and cooperate on mainstem TMDL public involvement.

Each State is expected to produce:
- The TMDL for total dissolved gas for their waters in cooperation with the dam operators within their boundaries. EPA will work with the Colville Tribe, and the Spokane Tribes for the portion of the dissolved gas TMDL within Reservation boundaries. Oregon DEQ and Washington DOE will collaborate on the total dissolved gas TMDL for the interstate portions of the Columbia River.

Possible implementation mechanisms that could be used to achieve the allocations in the TMDL include changes in the construction or operation at dams, FERC licenses, Biological Opinions, NPDES permits, consent decrees, water quality standards, habitat conservation plans, or other agreements.

Roles of Partners:
EPA:
- Ensure coordination of the entire TMDL development effort between all involved parties.
- Technical lead for temperature TMDL
- Connect work to the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL. Coordinate total dissolved gas TMDLs.
- Coordinate Tribal participation
- Coordinate Federal participation.
- Exercise Trust responsibility to the Columbia River Tribes by inviting their participation, seeking their advice and expertise, and keeping them informed on critical issues related to TMDL development.
- Coordinate development of the total dissolved gas TMDL for the Upper Columbia River within the boundaries of the Colville and Spokane reservations.
- Connect work to the Clearwater River TMDL.
- Lead on a single public involvement effort.
- Coordinate with Provincial Federal government of Canada, Washington DOE, and the Tribes on addressing total dissolved gas standards at the US/Canadian border.

Expected Roles of State Partners:
Oregon DEQ:
- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Idaho DEQ.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Washington DOE.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Idaho DEQ:
- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Oregon DEQ.
- Engage Idaho Power Company.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Washington DOE:
- Lead for total dissolved gas TMDLs within state boundaries.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Oregon DEQ.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Engage PUDs in the TMDL development process.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Columbia Basin Tribes:
- Work with EPA and the states to prepare TMDLs and coordinate and consult on decisions.

Expected Roles of Cooperating Agencies and Tribal Governments:
- Federal Action Agencies (USACE, BOR, BPA): Provide data and information, financial/technical assistance, models, modeling, and general support.
- PUDs/Private Dams: Provide data and information, technical/financial assistance; assist in TMDL development and implementation.
- FERC: Condition future licenses to be consistent with any 401 certification requirements which include conditions necessary to achieve the allocations in the TMDL.
- NMFS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- FWS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- Columbia Basin Tribes: Participate in government-to-government coordination and consultation to provide their views and perspectives and lend their expertise to the effort.

For More Information or for State and Tribal Contacts:
www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiamainstemtmdl.htm

Other Questions:
Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, Portland, (503) 326-3250
or
John Osterberg, Western Governors' Association, (303) 623-9378